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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION 25X1

1. The Bulgarian Army of the Interior, known as Chekists, is subordinate to the Ministry of Internal Affairs. It aids the Militia in quelling mutinies or uprisings, and in maintaining order, especially in emergencies. The Army of the Interior intervenes whenever a situation gets beyond control of the Militia, particularly when a genuine military force is required. It also intervenes when necessary to assist the Border Guards.
2. The primary mission of the Border Guards is to prevent clandestine entry into Bulgaria. If individuals actually succeed in entering Bulgaria clandestinely and are subsequently detected by the Border Guards, the matter is turned over to the Army of the Interior.
3. The Army of the Interior is the only armed force in Bulgaria that can go into action instantly, at any time. The Army must wait until the men can get their weapons out of guarded magazines in which they are deposited at the end of drill each day. The Army of the Interior, on the other hand, can block off an area, make searches, and fight anywhere and any time. It is in charge of the battle against resistance groups.
4. Army of the Interior troops are located as follows:
 - a. Sofia, two regiments;
 - b. Gorna Dzhumaya, one regiment;
 - c. Petrich, one regiment;

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- d. Pleven, one regiment;
- e. Lovech, one regiment;
- f. Svishtov, one regiment;
- g. Nevrokop, one battalion; and
- h. Varna, three regiments.

It may be assumed that there is one battalion, at least, of this force in every important town, industrial center, or mining center.

5. The total strength of the Army of the Interior is estimated at 17,000 to 20,000 men.¹
6. There is a marked antipathy between the regular Army and the Army of the Interior. The Army of the Interior receives Border Guard rations and is better fed than the Army. The Army of the Interior has the confidence of the regime to a far greater extent than the regular Army. The Chekists look down on ordinary soldiers with contempt, while men of the regular Army consider those in the Army of the Interior as enemies of the Bulgarian people.
7. The Army of the Interior is made up of soldiers doing their regular military service; however it is an elite corps. To be selected a recruit must be physically strong and of fine appearance; he must have passed through special stages in the indoctrination of Communist Party youth; and at all times he must have proven his fidelity, not to Bulgaria, but to the regime.
8. The Army of the Interior is armed with the Soviet Vintovka infantry rifle, 7.62 caliber; a Spagen or Sudayev model 1945 tommy gun; a 7.62 caliber machine gun; and a heavy Maksim-Sokolov machine gun. So far, there is no evidence that the Army of the Interior possesses light artillery. Each regiment has several trained police dogs, the number varying from four to sixteen according to the need. New ZIS motor trucks are used for transport.
9. The new uniform of these elite troops, introduced in July 1952, is as follows:
 - a. Cap, blue with red piping, five-pointed star in front;
 - b. Blouse, green khaki, buttoned high; small high collar with blue insignia on front and on the shoulders; shoulderboards (pagoni) blue with red piping;
 - c. Trousers, summer, green khaki riding breeches with blue pipings along the seams;
 - d. Boots, leather, probably black; and
 - e. Tunic, winter, of green khaki cloth, cut long, blue shoulder boards with red piping.
1. [REDACTED] Comment: Verification of these figures and a detailed table of organization and equipment are being sought.

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